

U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management
Kremmling Field Office
2103 E. Park Ave, PO Box 68, Kremmling, CO 80459

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION
Gore Canyon Race Special Recreation Permit
DOI-BLM-CO-N02000-2015-0023-CX

Identifying Information

Project Title: Gore Canyon Race Special Recreation Permit

Legal Description: Grand County, Colorado. 6th P.M.

T. 1 N., R. 80 W., Sections 18 – 20, and 29 – 31;
T. 1 N., R. 81 W., Sections 13, 22 – 24, 27, 28, 32, and 33;
T. 1 S., R. 81 W., Sections 1, 5 – 12, 18, and 19;
T. 1 S., R. 82 W., Sections 12 – 14, and 22 – 27.

Applicant: Mark Hammer

Conformance with the Land Use Plan

The Proposed Action is subject to and is in conformance (43 CFR 1610.5) with the following land use plan:

Land Use Plan: Kremmling Resource Management Plan (RMP), Record of Decision (ROD)

Date Approved: July 8, 2015

Decision Number/Page: Decision 2.2.3, Page 44

Decision Language: “Produce a diversity of quality recreational opportunities that support outdoor-oriented lifestyles and add to participants’ quality of life while, at the same time, contributing to the local economies.”

Proposed Action

Project Components and General Schedule

The Proposed Action would be to issue a Special Recreation Permit (SRP) authorizing the proponent to conduct three events and for commercial filming with all associated filming fees being required and paid: 1) a whitewater raft/kayak race on the Upper Colorado River in Gore Canyon (between the Confluence Recreation Site and the Pumphouse Recreation Site), 2) a Stand Up Paddle Board (SUP) race from Pumphouse Recreation Site to Radium Recreation Site, and 3) a kayak freestyle rodeo and SUP-cross event at the Gore Canyon Whitewater Park (Pumphouse Launch 2).

The Raft and Kayak Race

The raft and kayak race would be conducted on Saturday, August 23, 2015. The BLM would close the Confluence access road from Grand County Road 1 (Trough Road) during the morning of the race and also close the Launch #3 area at Pumphouse from the evening of August 22nd through the morning of August 23rd to the general public. Members of the public (with a driver that will immediately remove the vehicle from the Confluence) will be allowed to enter the Confluence Road and unload passengers and gear at the launch site when the race shuttles are not present.

The proponent estimates there would be 125 participants and 75 spectators. Parking for the participants and spectators would be at the Pumphouse Launch #3 site and at a designated overflow parking area identified on the map below. Shuttle vehicles would be used to move the necessary participants from Pumphouse to the launch site at the Confluence Recreation Area.

The permit would authorize use by event organizers and spectators to use the Gore Canyon Trail to access the rapids in the lower reaches of Gore Canyon. The permit would include the following special stipulations:

- 1) The event will be conducted in accordance with the Event Management Plan on file at the Kremmling Field Office (see attached).
- 2) Traffic management and parking will be managed in accordance with the Event Management Plan on file at the Kremmling Field Office (see attached).

The Stand Up Paddle Board Race

On Saturday, August 23, 2015, at 4:30 p.m. the SUP race begins at Pumphouse Launch 3. There will be a shuttle vehicle that will pick up all participants at Radium and bring them back to Pumphouse once the race is completed.

The Kayak Freestyle and SUP Cross Event

On Sunday, August 24, 2015 the kayak freestyle and SUP-cross event begins at 11 a.m. at the Gore Canyon Whitewater Park (near Pumphouse Launch 2). The event organizer would have a staff person located at Pumphouse Launch 1 with a radio to notify the event staff at the wave if a vessel is about to launch. The event would be put on hold until after the vessel had passed the wave.

Design Features

Applicant must follow the Event Management Plan as in Appendix B.

BLM Required Conditions of Approval to Mitigate Impacts to Cultural and Paleontological Resources

1. The applicant is responsible for informing all persons who are associated with the project that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing archaeological sites or for collecting artifacts.

2. If any archaeological materials are discovered as a result of operations under this authorization, activity in the vicinity of the discovery will cease, and the BLM Archaeologist will be notified immediately. Work may not resume at that location until approved by the AO. The applicant will make every effort to protect the site from further impacts including looting, erosion, or other human or natural damage until BLM determines a treatment approach, and the treatment is completed. Unless previously determined in treatment plans or agreements, BLM will evaluate the cultural resources and, in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), select the appropriate mitigation option within 48 hours of the discovery. The applicant, under guidance of the BLM, will implement the mitigation in a timely manner. The process will be fully documented in reports, site forms, maps, drawings, and photographs. The BLM will forward documentation to the SHPO for review and concurrence.
3. Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(g), the applicant must notify the AO, by telephone and written confirmation, immediately upon the discovery of human remains, funerary items, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony. Further, pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(c) and (d), the operator must stop activities in the vicinity of the discovery and protect it for 30 days or until notified to proceed by the AO.
4. The applicant is responsible for informing all persons who are associated with project operations that they will be subject to prosecution for disturbing or collecting vertebrate or other scientifically-important fossils, collecting large amounts of petrified wood (over 25lbs./day, up to 250lbs./year), or collecting fossils for commercial purposes on public lands. If any paleontological resources are discovered as a result of operations under this authorization, the applicant must immediately contact the appropriate BLM representative.

Categorical Exclusion Review

The Proposed Action qualifies as a categorical exclusion under 516 DM 11, Number: (H)(1), *“Issuance of Special Recreation Permits for day use or overnight use up to 14 consecutive nights; that impacts no more than 3 staging areas; and/or for recreational travel along roads, trails, or in areas authorized in a land use plan.”* None of the following extraordinary circumstances in 516 DM 2, Appendix 2, apply.

The Proposed Action has been reviewed with the list of extraordinary circumstances (43 CFR 46.215) described in the table below.

Extraordinary Circumstance	YES	NO
a) Have significant adverse effects on public health and safety.		X
b) Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation, or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands; floodplains; national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.		X
c) Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources.		X

Extraordinary Circumstance	YES	NO
d) Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.		X
e) Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.		X
f) Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.		X
g) Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, in the National Register of Historic Places as determined by the bureau.		X
h) Have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have adverse effects on designated Critical Habitat for these species.		X
i) Violate a Federal law, or a State, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.		X
j) Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations.		X
k) Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites.		X
l) Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species.		X

Interdisciplinary Review

The Proposed Action was presented to, and reviewed by, the Kremmling Field Office interdisciplinary team on 7/14/2015. A complete list of resource specialists who participated in this review is available upon request. The table below lists resource specialists who provided additional review or remarks concerning cultural resources and special status species.

Name	Title	Resource	Date
Bill Wyatt	Archaeologist	Cultural Resources, Native American Religious Concerns	7/24/2015
Darren Long	Wildlife Biologist	Special Status Plant and Wildlife Species	8/17/2015
Teri Parvin	Recreation Management Specialist	Project Lead	08/17/2015
Zach Hughes	Natural Resource Specialist	Invasive species, Vegetation	08/06/2015
Stephanie Odell	Field Manager	NEPA Compliance	08/17/2015

Cultural Resources: A cultural resource inventory (Report #CR-08-35) for the Confluence parking lot area was completed. No new or previously known cultural resource sites lie within the proposed parking lot. The launch areas are within developed parking and launch areas that have been previously inventoried for the activities taking place with the race. The proposed action is a no effect there are no historic properties affected.

Native American Religious Concerns: Tribal consultation for the race and overflow parking area was initiated on May 9, 2008. To date, no tribe has identified areas of traditional cultural concerns within the project area. No further consultation is necessary.

Threatened and Endangered Species: This event would not impact any known individuals or populations of threatened or endangered species.

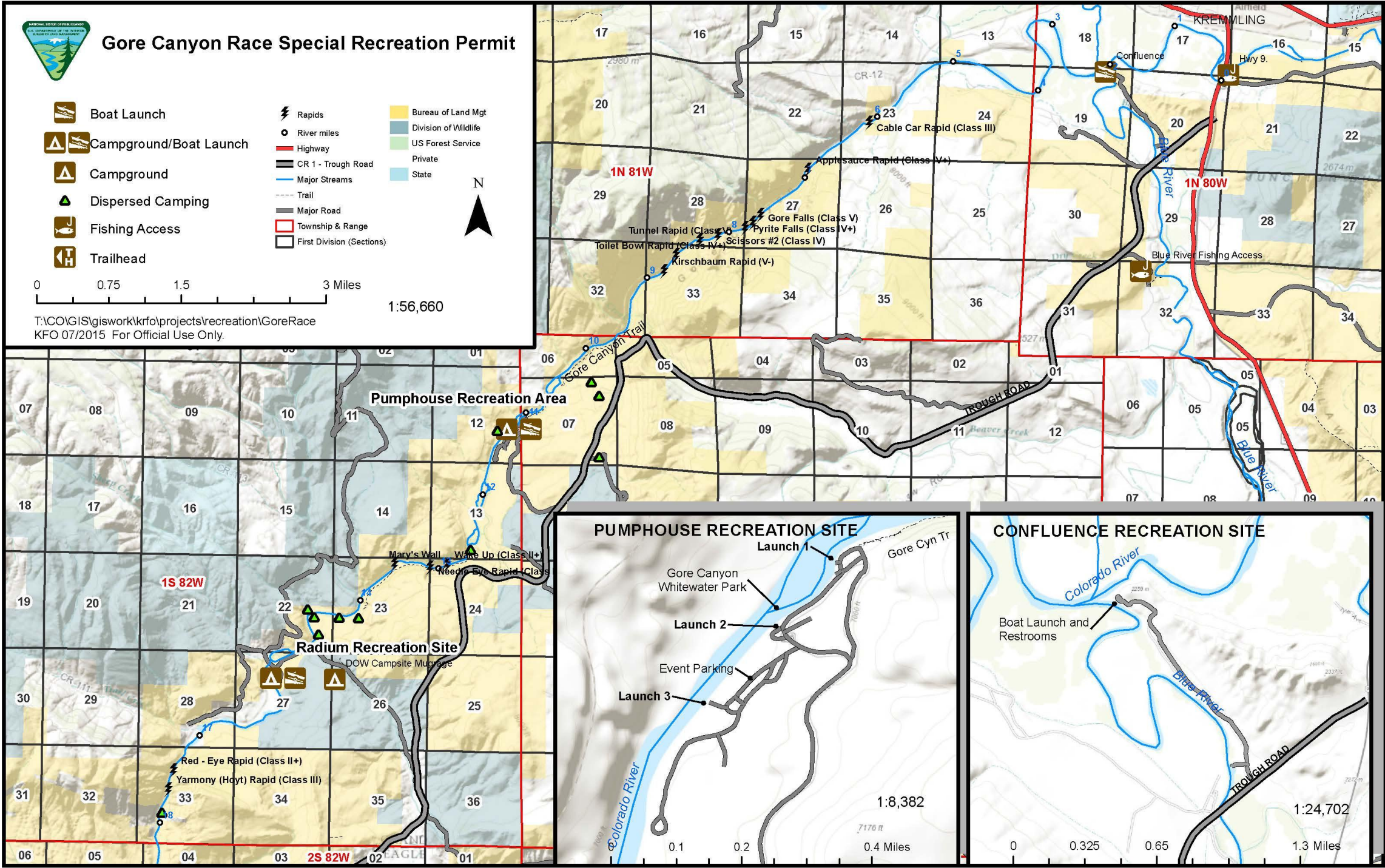
Compliance with NEPA

The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516 DM 11, Number: (H)(1). This categorical exclusion is appropriate in this situation because there are no extraordinary circumstances potentially having effects that may significantly affect the environment. The Proposed Action has been reviewed, and none of the extraordinary circumstances described in 43 CFR 46.215 apply.

Field Manager

Date

Appendix A. Figures



**Gore Canyon Race Special Recreation Permit
Traffic and Parking Management Plan**

Directions
Pumphouse is approximately 10 miles from Highway 9 on Grand County #1 (Trough Road). From Kremmling take Hwy 9 south about 1 mile to Grand County 1 (Trough Road). Go west on Grand County 1 (Trough Road) for 10 miles, and turn right onto Pumphouse access road.

BLM Kremmling Field Office GIS Department 07/14/2014

0.1 Miles

Legend

- Accessible Restroom
- Accessible Covered Picnic Area
- Accessible Campsite
- Campsite
- Boat Launch
- Group Site
- Host Site
- Parking
- Trailhead
- Water Spigot

Appendix B. Gore Canyon Race Event Management Plan

Gore Canyon 2015 – Event Management Plan

1. Course Plan – Class II SUP downriver (Pumphouse to Radium), Class IV-V Downriver Gore Canyon (Confluence to Pumphouse), SUP cross/Kayak Rodeo (Pumphouse Wave)

The SUP and Gore Canyon Race are both downriver races and the Rodeo will be confined to the wave so the event coordinators prefer that there is limited access at Pumphouse Launch 1. For the downriver events the only course markings will be at the start of the courses and at the finish lines; SUP finishes at Radium; Raft/Kayak IV-V finishes at the bottom of Kirschbaum Rapid. The only other signs will be at Gore Rapid on river right keeping people off the railroad tracks. During the kayak freestyle event and the possible SUP cross race, the event coordinators would work around private and commercial boaters who are launching but it would be preferable to have them launch below the wave/hole during competitions (approximately 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.).

2. Safety Plan (to be executed by Permittee):

The safety plan consists of four elements: a) communication, b) rescue, c) assessment and emergency care, and d) evacuation. A safety officer would be designated for the event with the responsibility of ensuring all components of the safety plan are met.

a. Communication:

- All participants sign a liability waiver that outlines the risks of boating in Gore Canyon and using a SUP on the Colorado River. The signing of the waiver would communicate the risks to the participant.
- **Screening;** appropriate screening of participants will be conducted by event organizers.
- The event organizer would contact Grand County EMS to notify them when the race will occur. The event organizer would also communicate with Grand County EMS where patient transfers would take place and where designated helicopter landing zones would be.
- The rescue team would meet the morning of the race to review the rescue plan and ensure all teams have first aid kits and rescue gear.
- A safety meeting would be held with the rescue team lead and the participants outlining participant and rescue team responsibilities.
- Radios provided by the BLM would supplement communications used wherever possible in the canyon.
- As many “Walk-About” radios as are available would be issued to safety teams. All safety teams would use universal river signals and develop additional signals as a rapid may require.
- All safety plans would be shared with the BLM and the railroad via email the week before the race and discussed in a meeting early the morning of the Saturday race.

b. Rescue:

- Gore Canyon Race - River rescue would be conducted by five designated teams; one below Applesauce Rapid, one below Gore Rapid with at least two of the Gore Rapid team members located at Scissors and at least two at Pyrite, one below Tunnel Falls, one at Toilet Bowl and one along and one below Kirschbaum Rapid. There will be one LEAD at each rapid and they will have formal Swift water rescue training.
- Gore Canyon Race - Each rescue team would consist of at least one kayaker, a member on shore with throw bags and a team lead.
- SUP Race - SUP river rescue would be staged at Eye of the Needle and near the mine shack. This is a Class II stretch and there are not many rapids involved in this stretch. A safety team provided by the event management team would perform a sweep once the last competitor passes

c. Assessment and emergency care:

- Each rescue team would carry an adequate first aid kit. Wrap kits would be at Gore and Kirschbaum Rapids.
- Three backboards would be staged in the canyon during the race; one below Gore Rapid, one below Tunnel Falls, and one below Kirschbaum Rapid.
- All participants would be asked about their emergency medical training during registration and if willing, utilized where possible.

d. Evacuation

Event organizers must coordinate with EMS personnel to establish evacuation and response procedures. This must be done before the race begins.

Water Levels

If water levels are too high or too low, the race would be postponed due to safety concerns. The maximum race flow would be 1,450 cubic feet per second (cfs) and the minimum race flow would be 700 cfs.

Approximate Expected Number of Participants and Spectators

- Participants 125 people
- Spectators 75 people

Private Land: Jim Yust Property

Event organizers would give BLM copy of written permission from private property owners before race.

Railroad

Event organizers would give BLM copy of written permission from railroad authorities before race.

Shuttle Services

Buses are used to transport all Gore Race participants to the put in. The shuttle vehicles will be set up at Pumphouse campground by launch 3 and do continuous cycles to the put in. Participants will be encouraged to park at Pumphouse and use the shuttle vehicles to access the put in. The SUP Race starts at Gore Canyon Takeout; therefore, the shuttle would wait at Radium to transport people back to Pumphouse.

River Ferry above Kirschbaum Rapid

The permittee will not set up a ferry this year, so spectators would not be ferried to river right.

Pumphouse Management

Crowd Control

Large crowds are not expected for the weekend. Most of the crowd would be race participants and race organizers.

No Vending

Race organizers would not be selling food, beer or merchandise at this event.

Entertainment

If a small music group plays on Saturday, the band would be playing in Launch 3 campground pavilion and music would be unplugged by 10pm.

Traffic Control

There will be traffic management signs placed in the Pumphouse area to direct race traffic. We will have signs directing traffic to the designated parking area, launch 3 campground.

Trash

Proper additional receptacles would be provided by permittee in order to keep Pumphouse free of trash. Permittee would conduct a complete scan of area before leaving Pumphouse on Sunday in order to leave area "cleaner" than when arriving for event.

Event Schedule

Friday August 21

2pm	Crew set up of Pumphouse Launch 3 pavilion
6pm-9pm	Event Registration at Pumphouse

Saturday August 23

7 am – 9:00 am	Late event registration at Pumphouse
9 am – 12 pm	Shuttles to put in operational

8:30 am	Safety team Meeting
9:30 am	Safety leaves Pumphouse for put in
10 am	Pre-Race Meeting at Pumphouse (for all racers)
12 pm	Downriver Gore Race starts with Kayaks then rafts
4:30 pm	SUP race - Pumphouse to Radium
	Shuttle leaves for Radium

Sunday August 24

8 – 10am	Late event registration kayak freestyle and SUP cross events
11am	Start 1 st round kayak freestyle at Pumphouse wave
1pm	Start of possible SUP cross race through Pumphouse wave
2pm	Final rounds for kayak freestyle at Pumphouse
3pm	Clean up and depart

Gore Canyon Race Traffic/Parking Plan

Pumphouse:

All vehicles associated with the event would be parked in the Launch #3 parking area or in a designated overflow parking area behind the Launch 3 pavillion. BLM would provide all the necessary signage, while the permittee would provide temporary fencing and personnel to direct race traffic and efficiently park vehicles. Vehicles would be parked in such a manner as to maintain access in and out of the Launch # 3 area for outgoing traffic and emergency vehicles. All race traffic (operations, participants, and spectators) would be directed to park in the Launch #3 area, leaving the rest of the Pumphouse Recreation Site open for public use. The Launch #3 area will be closed for public use from Friday afternoon, 8/21/15 through the duration of the race, Saturday evening, 8/22/15. Protective fencing would remain in place until Sunday morning, 8/17/08. (see attached map) Camping is not allowed in the parking lots.

Confluence Put-in:

The Confluence put-in will be closed for public use the morning of Saturday 8/22/15 to accommodate race operations and participants. After all participants are on the water, the put-in will be reopened to the public. BLM personnel would maintain the closure. A shuttle bus system would be used to move participants and equipment from Pumphouse to the Confluence. If members of the public want to launch from the Confluence and have a driver to remove their vehicle, they would be let in when the shuttle bus is not present.

Decision Record
Gore Canyon Race Special Recreation Permit
DOI-BLM-CO-N02000-2015-0023-CX

Decision

It is my decision to implement the Proposed Action as described in DOI-BLM-CO-N02000-2015-0023-CX, authorizing the proponent to conduct three events; 1) a whitewater raft/kayak race on the Upper Colorado River in Gore Canyon (between the Confluence Recreation Site and the Pumphouse Recreation Site), 2) Stand Up Paddle Board (SUP) race from Pumphouse Recreation Site to Radium Recreation Site, and 3) a kayak freestyle rodeo and SUP-cross event at the Gore Canyon Whitewater Park (Pumphouse Launch 2).

Applicant Committed Design Features

Applicant must follow the Event Management Plan as in Appendix B.

BLM Required Conditions of Approval to Mitigate Impacts to Cultural and Paleontological Resources

1. The applicant is responsible for informing all persons who are associated with the project that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing archaeological sites or for collecting artifacts.
2. If any archaeological materials are discovered as a result of operations under this authorization, activity in the vicinity of the discovery will cease, and the BLM Archaeologist will be notified immediately. Work may not resume at that location until approved by the AO. The applicant will make every effort to protect the site from further impacts including looting, erosion, or other human or natural damage until BLM determines a treatment approach, and the treatment is completed. Unless previously determined in treatment plans or agreements, BLM will evaluate the cultural resources and, in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), select the appropriate mitigation option within 48 hours of the discovery. The applicant, under guidance of the BLM, will implement the mitigation in a timely manner. The process will be fully documented in reports, site forms, maps, drawings, and photographs. The BLM will forward documentation to the SHPO for review and concurrence.
3. Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(g), the applicant must notify the AO, by telephone and written confirmation, immediately upon the discovery of human remains, funerary items, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony. Further, pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(c) and (d), the operator must stop activities in the vicinity of the discovery and protect it for 30 days or until notified to proceed by the AO.
4. The applicant is responsible for informing all persons who are associated with project

operations that they will be subject to prosecution for disturbing or collecting vertebrate or other scientifically-important fossils, collecting large amounts of petrified wood (over 25lbs./day, up to 250lbs./year), or collecting fossils for commercial purposes on public lands. If any paleontological resources are discovered as a result of operations under this authorization, the applicant must immediately contact the appropriate BLM representative.

Compliance with Laws & Conformance with the Land Use Plan

This decision is in compliance with the Endangered Species Act and the National Historic Preservation Act. It is also in conformance with the 2015 Kremmling Record of Decision/Approved Resource Management Plan.

Public Involvement

This project was posted on the BLM online National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) register after its completion. https://www.blm.gov/epl-front-office/eplanning/lup/lup_register.do

Rationale

The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516 DM 11, Number: (H)(1). This categorical exclusion is appropriate in this situation because there are no extraordinary circumstances potentially having effects that may significantly affect the environment. The Proposed Action has been reviewed, and none of the extraordinary circumstances described in 43 CFR 46.215 apply.

Administrative Remedies

Any appeal of this decision must follow the procedures set forth in 43 CFR Part 4. Within 30 days of the decision, a Notice of Appeal must be filed in the office of the Authorized Officer at Kremmling Field Office, 2103 E. Park Ave, PO Box 68, Kremmling, CO 80459 with copies sent to the Regional Solicitor, Rocky Mountain Region, 755 Parfet St., Suite 151, Lakewood, CO 80215, and to the Department of the Interior, Board of Land Appeals, 801 North Quincy St., MS300-QC, Arlington, VA, 22203. If a statement of reasons for the appeal is not included with the notice, it must be filed with the Interior Board of Land Appeals at the above address within 30 days after the Notice of Appeal is filed with the Authorized Officer.

Signature of Authorized Official

/s/ Stephanie Odell
Field Manager

08/18/2015
Date